

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: FAO, AORG
SUBJECT: FAO'S INDUSTRY COOPERATIVE PROGRAM (ICP)

1. WALTER SIMONS, THE FAO'S INDUSTRY COOPERATIVE PROGRAM MAN IN NEW YORK, SAW AMB. GARDNER ON FEB. 24, 1978. SIMONS CONFIRMED TO AMB. GARDNER THAT THE FAO WAS DISCONTINUING THE ICP AND THAT THE INDUSTRY MEMBERS WERE VERY UPSET.

2. BACKGROUND IS UNHAPPINESS WITH ICP PROGRAM ON PART OF FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL SAOUMA WHO FELT THAT INDUSTRY WAS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF PROGRAM AND THAT ICP STAFF WAS OUTSIDE HIS CONTROL, EVEN THOUGH TECHNICALLY FAO EMPLOYEES. AT SEPTEMBER PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING, A MEMBER OF PROGRAM COMMITTEE (JUMAA OF LEBANON) ATTACKED ICP, AND SAOUMA TOOK LINE THAT ICP SHOULD NOT BE INTEGRAL PART OF FAO.

3. FAO CONFERENCE REPORT ON SUBJECT READS AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN
QUOTE: THE CONFERENCE NOTED THE VIEWS OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL SHARED BY THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE, THAT THE INDUSTRY COOPERATIVE PROGRAM SHOULD NOT BE PART OF THE STRUCTURE OF FAO. THE
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PAGE 02 ROME 03653 280927Z

NEED FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION WITH INDUSTRY, PARTICULARLY AT THE SECTORAL LEVEL, WAS RECOGNIZED. THIS COULD ASSIST IN THE TRANSFER OF RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY IN MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY, ACCORDING TO THE PRIORITY NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

THE CONFERENCE SUPPORTED THE INTENTION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO EXAMINE THE INDUSTRY COOPERATIVE PROGRAM, FURTHER TO THE REPORT OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE, AND TO PROPOSE TO THE SPRING SESSION OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO THE COUNCIL WAYS OF SECURING APPROPRIATE COOPERATION WITH INDUSTRY, IN PARTICULAR FOR THE FUTURE.
END QUOTE

4. EXPECTATION WAS THAT ICP AND FAO WOULD WORK UP NEW ARRANGEMENT. UNFORTUNATELY, ICP CHAIRMAN, SIR GEORGE BISHOP, COULD NOT SCHEDULE A MEETING WITH SAOUMA, AND THE ICP EXECUTIVE BOARD MET THE WEEK OF FEB. 20 AND DECIDED TO REQUEST AN ASSOCIATION DIRECTLY WITH THE UN. THIS WAS DONE, IN TURN, WITH KNOWLEDGE THAT SAOUMA HAS WRITTEN THE ICP TO TERMINATE ITS PROGRAMS WITH THE FAO AS OF JUNE 1978. HOWEVER, SAOUMA'S LETTER DATED AND SENT AFTER ICP'S. TRUST FUND MONEY CONTRIBUTED BY TWO LARGE CORPORATIONS TO PAY FOR FULL-TIME EXPERTS AT FAO IS NOW TO BE RETURNED AND EXPERTS RETURNED TO COMPANIES.

5. ACCORDING TO SIMONS, WALDHEIM HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN WORKING MORE CLOSELY WITH INDUSTRY. HE WOULD WELCOME, PROVIDED THERE IS POLITICAL SUPPORT, SOME SORT OF ICP ATTACHED TO OFFICE OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION (OTC). OF COURSE PROGRAM WITH OTC WOULD INCLUDE ALL INDUSTRY AND NOT JUST AGRICULTURE. SIMONS URGED USG TO SUPPORT IDEA.

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PAGE 03 ROME 03653 280927Z

6. FODAG IS DISTURBED THAT ILL WILL GENERATED BY MOVE TO DISCONTINUE ICP WILL CREATE MORE TROUBLE FOR FAO AND DG THAN EXPECTED THOUGH DG HOPES TO ENSURE INDUSTRY COOPERATION THROUGH A SECTORAL APPROACH.HOLMES

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